



**Central Bucks School District
Secondary Social Studies**

DRAFT

Overarching Understandings

Students will understand that:

Nature of Social Studies

1. Studying social studies can be interesting, relevant and enjoyable.
2. Social studies can help individuals participate more effectively in the world.
3. Individuals can make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good.
4. Sources need to be interpreted and evaluated in order to be used well.

Economics and Technology

5. Unlimited wants and limited resources often influence the decisions of individuals and institutions.
6. Economics and geography influence patterns of human settlement and development.
7. Technology changes how people interact with the environment and one another.

Geography, Culture and Interdependence

8. Where people live affects how they live.
9. People are shaped by diverse cultures but have a shared humanity.
10. Developments around the world have an effect on people in the United States and vice versa.
11. People and nations have values and interests that can result in conflict or cooperation.

Government and Citizenship

12. The actions of institutions are influenced by their purpose, structure and function.
13. Groups and nations attempt to establish order and security based on systems that develop over time.
14. Individuals can participate actively to influence groups and institutions.
15. Individuals have important rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democracy.

History

16. Historical thinking involves habits of mind that allow individuals to understand the past and its relationship to the present.
17. Knowledge of the past informs the present and can prepare people for the future.
18. Significant historical events involve a complex set of interrelated causes and effects.
19. Individuals can influence history but are more often influenced by history.

Overarching Essential Questions

Nature of Social Studies

1. Why study social studies?
2. How do we know what happened?
3. Whom do we believe and why?
4. What should we do when sources disagree?

Economics and Technology

5. How do people deal with scarcity?
6. When is the free market best?
7. How has technology transformed civilizations and the human experience?
8. How do we evaluate whether new technology is better than that which it replaces?

Geography, Culture and Interdependence

9. How does where people live influence how they live?
10. What are the effects of the changing relationship between human beings and the environment?
11. What determines an individual's opportunity in society?
12. What happens when diverse cultures interact?
13. How do other cultures affect the individual?
14. What should America's role in the world be?

Government and Citizenship

15. Whose decisions matter?
16. What is effective leadership?
17. How can abuse of power be avoided?
18. How can individuals improve society and institutions?
19. How do ideals and values influence decisions?
20. What are the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy?

History

21. How does the time period in which people live influence how they live?
22. How are individuals connected to the past?
23. What causes change?
24. How do we know when change is for the better?
25. What do we learn from analyzing major historical events?
26. How have historical events shaped the modern world?
27. What impact does an individual have on history?